



Somerset Children's Trust – Children & Young People's Plan (CYPP) Executive Summary

Progress as at: end September 2018

Overall

At the end of Quarter 2 of Year 3 (July to September 2018) the Somerset Children's Trust (SCT) is providing a progress update on the 7 Improvement Programmes; the exception being Programme 6 due to the capacity of the Operations Manager's Meeting to report their highlights.

Six of the 7 Improvement Programmes are rated as AMBER which may reflect timescales leading to completing actions rather than a lack of confidence in their ability to complete.

Analysis of Quarter 2 highlight reports show that the ongoing focus is as follows:

Information & Advice and Support for Parents and Communities

Programmes 1 and 2 have highlighted support given to communities and parents through groups, websites, specialist services, volunteering opportunities and a stronger information and advice offer. Progress includes the launch of the new Local Offer in July to raise awareness of Somerset provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). West Somerset parent groups have been supported to offer advocacy to parents. NHS England have awarded funding for specialist perinatal and infant mental health services. Somerset County Council (SCC) held an event looking at the new in-house volunteering offer; including a standalone website. The health and well-being survey has been completed, gaining views from over 7000 children across schools in Somerset – the results will be published in the Autumn – and issues facing specific groups such as young carers, children looked after and children and young people with SEND needs can be identified from the data. Work is in hand preparing the new Local Offer for Care Leavers, due to launch in Quarter 3.

Support for Schools and Preparation for Adulthood

Support for schools and preparing for adulthood are the themes reported by Programmes 2, 4 and 5 and highlight some good progress but also some issues and risks to consider. 42 schools are signed up to the Somerset well-being framework – adopting a whole school approach to health and well-being, focusing on emotional health and well-being. The Team Around the School (TAS) approach is continuing to work to extend to early years (0-5) and Further Education (18-25), to provide local network coverage for children of all ages and for which there is

statutory responsibility. There are now service level agreements in place between SCC and schools to support the effectiveness of TAS and the deployment of Parent Family Support Advisors (PFSA).

There were 401 contacts (individual children) from schools requesting getset support in Quarter 2; only 149 of these resulted in a service being offered. To support a better conversion rate for education, support is being given to schools over the next 12 months to try and improve the quality and threshold application of Early Help Assessments (EHAs) by schools.

2018 KS4 data is still only provisional, but we are not narrowing the performance gap between vulnerable groups and their peers. However, TAS will be focusing on vulnerable groups to ensure they are in school and able to learn. The current GCSE curriculum is not conducive to enable children with additional needs or those from vulnerable groups to achieve their potential. This can result in high levels of disengagement, as evidenced by increasing rates of exclusion and increasing number of electively home educated secondary pupils.

Unfortunately, the number of fixed term exclusions has increased by 23% (873/674) compared with the same period last year. Discussions are taking place with Head Teachers to look at reasons for this increase and the remedial actions required.

Transition skills workshops are being delivered by Young Somerset in schools, funded by the National Collaborative Outreach Programme (NCOP) and by colleges in Yeovil, Taunton and Bridgwater. Additionally, a Somerset Apprenticeship & Skills Advisory Service is being created to help provide information and a brokerage system for young people interested in this Post 16 route. Programme 6 reports a small reduction in care leavers who are NEET (not in education, employment and training).

New Careers Advisor groups have been established (Primary Heads, Post 16) to help promote better Careers Education Information, Advice & Guidance (CEiAG) and transition opportunities for young people.

Workforce Development, Quality & Capacity

Staff turnover figures for qualified social workers remains an area of concern for Programmes 6 and 7 despite Q2 seeing an improvement in the recruitment of qualified social workers; Programme 6 highlights that recruitment of social workers is an ongoing problem. Progress is being made to combat this with a focus on learning from staff feedback gained at Engagement Surgeries, a new Social Work degree at Yeovil College, recruitment opportunities from the recent Community Care Live event in London and Visit Somerset work. Also, recruitment engagement insight is being gained from collaborative work with Essex and West Sussex Local Authorities.

Nearly 400 practitioners attended the 'Children are the future of Somerset: Is what we do good enough for our children and their families?' multi-

agency roadshows in June and July; the Think Family Strategy was launched at the events which included sessions exploring examples of good practice. Further workshops are scheduled for November on improving the role of the Lead Professional.

Good progress is being made to categorise schools and settings against a range of indicators to identify those at risk of being judged as Inadequate or Requiring Improvement, this will dictate the level of support received across the year. The appointment of the new South West Regional Teaching Schools Co-ordinator provides the opportunity to further support work to improve Somerset school's education outcomes.

Team Around the School (TAS) audit feedback highlighted the need for a tighter meeting structure, this informed the new Service Level Agreements (SLA's) that will be sent out in Q3 allowing for a robust measurement of effectiveness.

Programmes 1, 2 and 4 are reporting slippage and issues surrounding the lack of capacity. Planned work required to include Further Education and Early Years in TAS has been delayed due to conflicting priorities; the 0-5 Speech, Language and Communication Strategy has stalled; and the lack of capacity to do detailed monitoring of quality of support for children on part-time timetables and suitability of provision for vulnerable children being home educated.

Programme 6 highlights continued sufficiency issues regarding placements for children looked after.

Programme 4 is reporting slippage with a 6% decline in the percentage of Education Health Care Plans (EHCP) completed within 20 weeks as a result of schools not returning consultations and staff absence impact on workload; additionally, Programme 2 reports that there are still difficulties ensuring timely input to EHCP from health partners due to uncertainty around information sharing.

Programme 1 is reporting that there has been no progress with the Inclusive Communities Charter Mark due to capacity and has requested that Children's Trust Executive determine how to proceed with this.

There has been a recent announcement from NHS England regarding additional investment into children and young people's mental health. Programme 3 reports that this will be rolled out via the refreshed Transformation Plan.

Systems, Process & Finance

Programme 6 reports that, following service audits, there is evidence of improved quality outcomes in children's social care practice.

Programmes 2, 4, 5, and 7 identify issues in this area. Progress included presentation events for Special Educational Needs Coordinators

(SENCO)s and Parent Family Support Advisors (PFSA) around the Early Help Hub and Early Help Assessment to improve joint working between schools and early help services to establish a more cohesive pathway that meets the needs of children with SEND and vulnerable groups. The Early Help Board requested data leads across partners agencies to meet and design a protocol for a more robust mechanism for early help data sharing. Leads met in September to explore how data could be collected in relation to the indicators within the new Early Help dashboard. Whilst there was good attendance and engagement from agencies it is clear that systems in place recording this information are not currently robust enough.

The number of early help contacts made by schools has fallen by 49% since last quarter. It is assumed at this stage that this is normal academic year variance accounted for due to six weeks of Q2 data covering the summer break.

Early Help data is currently showing a slight increase in the percentage of second or subsequent Early Help Assessments referrals that have had a previous episode within 1 year, from 7.8% in Q1 to 10.2% in Q2.

In September SCC Cabinet took a decision to “alter and/or reduce early help services provided to children and their families (getset)”. Aspects of this decision are being scrutinised at October Children and Families Scrutiny. Once this decision is finalised the scope of integration between early help services and Public Health Nursing will be revisited; however, work is still progressing to bring Public Health Nursing into Somerset County Council and to remodel the children’s centres as agreed at Cabinet in February 2018.

Finally, ‘Financial Imperative’ work within SCC has meant a change of focus for SCC staff and this will impact on relationships between partners in the short term. Programme 3 has reported that financial pressures are placing significant strain on partner agencies.

Looking Ahead

Preparation for the Children and Young Peoples Plan (CYPP) 2019 -22 continues with the second of 3 engagement events held at County Hall in August. 20 children and young people worked with key decision makers in the partnership to look at education and preparation for adulthood. It was a very productive day with a rich body of information to use in the new CYPP. Similarly, the Partnership Team attended the ‘Children Are the Future of Somerset: Is what we do good enough for our children and their families?’ and carried out a practitioner Partnership Maturity survey, the results of which will also inform the next CYPP. The 7000 responses from the 2018 Schools Survey will also influence the new plan once results have been evaluated in Quarter 3.

This work will align with the consultation of the new Health and Well Being Strategy – 'Improving Lives' and Fit for My Future Strategy

Emerging work for next quarter:

- Partnership Business Manager (Fiona Phur) will be attending the October VCSE Forum to consult on the CYPP 2019-22 - to report back Q3
- Local Offer sustainability plan has been developed and costed and is now with SMT awaiting approval
- Training and development to monitor performance of the TAS Service Level Agreements (SLA) being run in October 2018
- Publication of the health and well-being survey results to promote schools and partners to take action as a result of findings
- The Education Partnership Board is to review the role of the SEPB at the October meeting – reviewing membership, partner representation and Terms of Reference
- Funding is being sought to develop a Somerset Higher Education website to provide better localised information about HE provision being delivered in Somerset
- Year 12 and 13 panels booked for w/c 15th October 2018 with all Post 16 Colleges, to support all young people who haven't made a secure transition to college. Support agencies (#Focus Five and Somerset Skills for Young People) will attend each panel to take referrals
- Revise guidance on the use of part-time time tables being finalised and circulated to schools
- Phase Strategy Group for Specialist Provision will be commencing to monitor the performance of special schools and ensure that where concerns arise they are addressed where necessary using the Local Authorities statutory powers of intervention
- A public consultation on the reduction in SCC early help services will commence in November 2018
- November roadshows planned to support practitioners with undertaking the Lead Professional Role
- Review staff turnover in CSC to identify activity to reduce numbers of social workers leaving
- I-Thrive service model exploratory workshop to be held in October
- Sign off 'refreshed' NHS Local transformation plan for Children and Young People's Mental Health 2015 - 20
- Third consultation event for the production of the next Children and Young People's Plan 2019-22

Decisions Required:


- Programme 1 requests that the SCT Exec discuss and confirm any actions to progress the Inclusive Communities Charter Mark
- Programme 2, the Designated Medical Officer has requested escalation of Health partner inputs to EHCPs, particularly for Children Looked After and from primary care

- That the Somerset Children's Trust Executive considers and comments on the progress for all Improvement Programmes at the end of Year 3, Quarter 2.


Governance Arrangements:




This is the second quarter of reporting against the third year of the plan and covers the period July to September 2018. The Action Plans for each Improvement Programme have now adopted an amended RAG rating to support reasons for status and future service planning. The second annual report of the progress and impact of Year 2 of the CYPP was published in July 2018. The Children's Trust Board has met once in 2018 with social media and poor mental health being discussed. The new chair for the Board in 2018 is Sandra Corry, Director of Quality and Safety for the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). A re-structure of elected member's responsibilities has meant that the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee has re-vised the champion members for each Improvement programme which strengthens the impact of the programmes and provide advocacy for each of the groups at point of scrutiny.



1. Supporting children, families and communities to become more resilient

Current Status:	AMBER	Status Trend:	
Reason for current status:	Programme 1 currently holds a status of amber despite good progress with the launch of the new Local Offer (SEND) website and the positive work undertaken in West Somerset to map the advocacy and support available to parents. Slippage is highlighted on the work required to include Further Education and Early years in Team Around the School (TAS) meetings, and the lack of data returns for TAS due to the delay in sending out the new Service Level Agreements; contract monitoring meetings will now commence in January 2019 for the previous autumn term. Additionally, it is reported this quarter that there has been no progress made with the Inclusive Communities Charter Mark due to capacity.		

2. Promoting healthy outcomes and giving children the best start in life

Current Status:	AMBER	Status Trend:	
Reason for current status:	Programme 2 currently reports an amber status. Work is progressing however improvement is not reported in all areas; work has stalled on the 0-5 speech, language and communications strategy as it is now unclear it will have the desired		

	impact, additionally the lead on this work is leaving the Council. Slippage has been identified in the development of the Family Support Services following a proposal around the reduction of SCC early help services, this will now be rescoped.		
3. Improving emotional health and wellbeing			
Current Status:	AMBER	Status Trend:	
Reason for current status:	This programme currently holds an Amber status due to delayed sign-off of 2018/19 Action Plan, however, both on-going work in legacy schemes from 2017/18 and current operational performance remain on-track.		
4. Building skills for life			
Current Status:	AMBER	Status Trend:	
Reason for current status:	Programme 4 currently holds a status of amber, this is due to the fact that whilst there is some positive work taking place towards Programme 4's actions, outcomes at KS2 and KS4 in particular are falling behind national averages and it is expected that the gap in performance between vulnerable learners and their peers will also increase. We are also continuing to see an increase in fixed term exclusions and the number of pupils being home educated.		
5. Providing help early and effectively			
Current Status:	AMBER	Status Trend:	
Reason for current status:	Programme 5 is currently holds an amber status, actions are on track to deliver. The main area of concern is the financial situation within SCC and the potential resulting impact on the getset service. The Early Help Board is actively working on the wider role of all partners in providing effective early help and is working on the dashboard, Early Help Assessment (EHA) completion and other tools to support partners in their role.		

6. Achieving effective multi-agency support for more vulnerable children and young people and developing an excellent children's social work service			
Current Status:	AMBER	Status Trend:	
Reason for current status:	-		
7. Embedding a think family approach across the workforce			
Current Status:	AMBER	Status Trend:	
Reason for current status:	<p>Programme 7 holds the status of amber due to continued slow progress with moving the Workforce Development Board to becoming a multi-agency board; a link into the STP (Sustainability and Transformation Programme) has been made, however wider links to Police, Clinical Commissioning Group etc. are yet to be established. The Financial Imperative work has halted plans for joint training aimed at promoting partnership working, and pace is challenging as agencies have individual agendas and difficulties. Staff turnover in qualified social work roles remains an issue, however there is now a focus and good progress being made in gaining staff feedback through engagement surgeries, and development to enhance the social worker experience.</p>		